

Pacoima Beautiful Safer Homes Program

**Utilizing Healthy Housing
Concepts to Improve
Community**

Organizational Mission



Pacoima Beautiful empowers the Pacoima community through programs that provide environmental education, advocacy and local leadership in order to foster a healthy and safe environment.

History of Pacoima Beautiful

- ❑ Founded in 1996 by 5 woman
- ❑ Started as a beautification committee
- ❑ Evolved into an Environmental Justice Organization



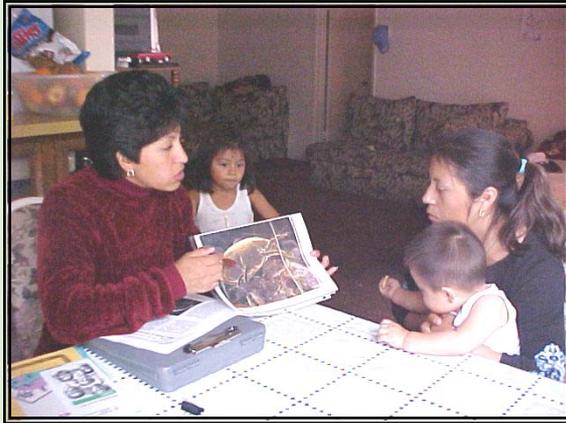
Pacoima Demographics

- ❑ Pacoima is located in the northeast San Fernando Valley in the City of Los Angeles
- ❑ Of the 101,000 residents, 85% are Latino and 8% are African American
- ❑ Approximately 33% of the population is children
- ❑ 19% percent of the population lived below the federal poverty level. (Source: US Census 2000)
- ❑ Of 22,000 housing units, 80% are single- family homes
- ❑ Approximately 21% of the population lives in garages or rental rooms in single-family homes

Community Health Issues

- ❑ In several areas, residents live next to industrial facilities
- ❑ Diesel trucks drive through residential areas
- ❑ There are more than 300 industrial uses/sites in the community
- ❑ Pacoima is home to five US EPA Cerclis/Superfund (toxic release) sites
- ❑ The community contains a small plane airport, with over 150 flights per day, and is bisected by railroad tracks
- ❑ Encircled by three major freeways: Interstate 5, Highway 118 and the 405 freeway

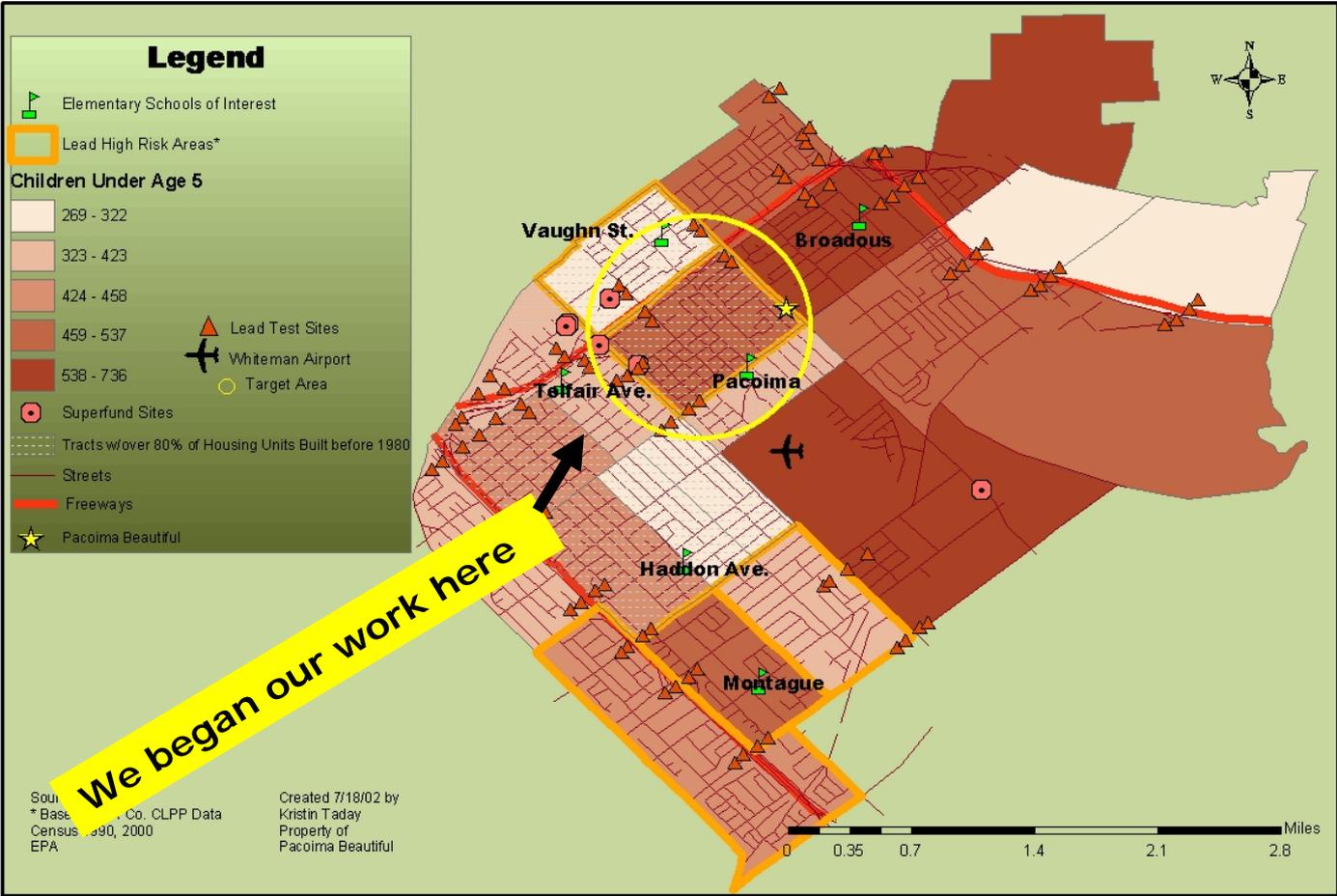
Addressing the Issues by Collaborating



- ❑ A survey conducted in 21 communities in 2000 determined that families in Pacoima knew very little about lead poisoning and other environmental in-home health hazards
- ❑ A collaborative group formed to develop a plan on how to address the lack of information on environmental in-home-health hazards. The group formed the Safer Homes Program
- ❑ The group is called the Environmental Health Committee

Pacoima Map

Pacoima Beautiful 2002 -- Targeting 100 Homes
Safer Homes, A Healthier Community



Safer Homes Concept

- ❑ Promotoras (community health educators)
- ❑ Work done by residents in the community for the community
- ❑ The Importance and types of trainings
- ❑ Partnerships and why the partnerships are essential in growing the work
- ❑ Progression of work from beginning to date



Collaborations and Partnerships

- California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Urban Studies
- Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
- Healthy Homes Collaborative
- Los Angeles County Department of Health
- Los Angeles Housing Department
- Northeast Valley Health Corporation
- Pacoima Charter Elementary School
- Telfair Elementary School
- Valley Care Community Consortium
- Vaughn Next Century Learning Center

Community Health Improvements

- ❑ Success and Outcomes
- ❑ Examples of community empowerment resulting in improved health outcomes



Next Steps

- ❑ **Continue to collaborate with existing partners and build new partnerships**
- ❑ **Expand our curriculum**
- ❑ **Become part of our partner's focus**
- ❑ **Create leadership and awareness of environmental health Issues in the community**
- ❑ **Provide residents opportunities to participate and present on what they have learned**

Thank You
